

TRIBUTE TO REDSTONE-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army for being named the "Best Overall" AUSA Chapter in the country. Chapter President Joe Fitzgerald accepted the award on behalf of chapter members during the AUSA National Convention in Washington.

AUSA is dedicated to supporting the U.S. Army and maintaining a strong national defense. AUSA achieves its goals by supporting the needs and interests of soldiers, retirees, and family members.

As the home of Redstone Arsenal, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and numerous defense partners, North Alabama has earned an excellent reputation for its role protecting the warfighter and defending our national security.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA, which was founded in 1959, has been a strong advocate and voice for North Alabama's warfighters. All of us in North Alabama are very proud of the hard work and commitment AUSA has always exhibited.

Mr. Speaker, this award is wonderful news for our community and I rise on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to express our sincere congratulations to the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABRAHAM LAZAR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Abraham Lazar, a great American and longtime resident of New York. On Sunday, November 7, 2004, Abraham's many friends, family and colleagues gathered in his current hometown of Lake Worth, Florida to celebrate his 80th birthday. Birthdays are a time for reflection, and I feel that it is fitting to pay tribute to this truly remarkable man. Abraham Lazar served his country with distinction, both in the U.S. naval service and in civilian life. I am privileged to be able to share some of his more memorable exploits with you.

Mr. Lazar and his ten brothers and sisters were born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and graduated shortly after the United States entered World War II. At the age of seventeen, Abe enlisted in the Navy and quickly established a distinguished service record.

Abe served in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters of battle. Mr. Lazar participated in the Battle of Peleliu, a struggle for a tiny airstrip amid the Palau Islands of the Western Pacific. Despite the island's small size, the battle for Peleliu lasted nearly two months and claimed more than 12,000 lives. Allied forces ultimately

prevailed and captured the island, but Mr. Lazar was severely wounded in the battle. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice.

Abe received another Purple Heart during the war, this time for his service in the Atlantic. I understand that Mr. Lazar's landing craft was sunk in the North Atlantic by a German U-Boat. Abe was forced overboard, and the fleeing submarine strafed his life raft with gunfire; despite these incredible dangers, Abe managed to survive, spending nearly twelve hours in open water before he was rescued. For his heroic service, Abe was promoted to Chief Motor Machinist's Mate, one of the highest ranks to which an enlisted sailor can be named.

After the war, Abe attended New York University and received a bachelor's degree, with honors, in engineering. In civilian life, Mr. Lazar worked with noted scientist Wernher von Braun to develop the Pershing missile system and was also employed by the Bulova Corporation to design and manufacture missile timing devices. Mr. Lazar is currently enjoying a well-deserved retirement in Florida, where he lives with his wife of 56 years, Anita.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring Abraham Lazar's lifetime of service to our nation. I'm sure that Abe's family, longtime friends and colleagues will join me in wishing him many more years of happiness. Happy birthday, Mr. Lazar.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ANDRE MARIE CROOKE DYAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad but rejoicing heart that I speak today about an extraordinary woman, Andre Marie Crooke Dyar, who was taken to her eternal home in Heaven on October 8, 2004.

I became friends with Andre when I first ran for State Representative in 1998. She was one of the most loyal people I knew. I am a better person for knowing Andre and the world is a better place because of her life.

Andre had a special love for children both born and in the womb. For a number of years she worked in the neonatal intensive care nursery at Sacred Heart Hospital, helping premature newborn babies get a non-compromised start in life. Continuing to have a positive influence on children's lives, Andre could always be found volunteering at Sunday school on Wednesday nights and at Vacation Bible School during the summer.

From the moment the law allowed the taking of innocent life, Andre's faith in God incited her passion for politics. Her first political campaign was in 1976, helping Ronald Reagan move from the California Governor's Mansion to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, her disabling disease made the 2002 elections her last.

In our local community of Northwest Florida, Andre was active in numerous civic organizations, from participating as an active member to Chairman of the Board. She spent many hours serving on the Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Escambia County Republican Executive Com-

mittee, the Center for Independent Living, and Escambia Federated Republican Women's Club. Last year, the Federated Women's Club presented Andre with an Honorary Lifetime Membership award, the first of its kind ever presented.

Andre was overflowing with life and had the drive and dedication to move a mountain despite her physical challenges. The vast majority of people would have given up and turned resentful, but she kept going and always wanted to do something more, to help somebody else.

May God rest her soul and continue to bless her family.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL
P. DEVINE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent retirement of an accomplished administrator, skilled scientist, and true patriot. Michael P. Devine of Sparta, New Jersey ended 36 years of dedicated service to our Nation on November 4 as he retired as Director of the United States Army Research, Development and Engineering Command ARDEC, headquartered at Picatinny Arsenal.

Situated on a 6,500-acre military installation, located in Rockaway Township, New Jersey, Picatinny Arsenal plays a unique role in the United States' ability to wage war. There is no other comprehensive armaments facility like it in the country. The base is a one-of-a-kind facility that provides virtually all of the lethal mechanisms used in Army weapon systems and those of the other military services. This unique facility requires special leadership.

Mike Devine became ARDEC Director in June 2004. As director, he exercised complete responsibility for all the activities at ARDEC. From September 2000 to June 2004, he was Technical Director of ARDEC, responsible for all technical matters. He managed an annual budget in excess of \$600 million dollars and supervised a technical staff of approximately 1,700 scientists and engineers and 900 support personnel.

As ARDEC Technical Director, and later as Director of ARDEC, Mike Devine provided critically important leadership—leadership that provided our joint warfighters with the tools they need to prosecute the international war on terrorism, to fight and win the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and protect and secure our homeland. During his tenure alone, 103 separate new armament products were released to soldiers and other services members. So far in 2004, 17 urgent fieldings of military equipment for use by forces in Iraq and Afghanistan were approved by Devine.

These fieldings have broad scope and include weapon systems, fire control and munitions for artillery, mortars, tanks and infantry, as well as alternatives to anti-personnel land mines, non lethal munitions and environmental research and development.

Mr. Devine worked as a research physicist prior to assuming significant management responsibility. Over the course of his career, his experience in the Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense spanned virtually all Army